



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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House Clerk's
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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 390 OF THE
2022 REGULAR SESSION

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 390 of the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing House Bill 390 because it is unnecessary, attempting to create solutions to problems that do not exist.

House Bill 390 adds the Commissioner of Agriculture to the Kentucky Economic Development Partnership Board and requires that the Cabinet give prompt notice to the Commissioner when it receives information about an agriculture-related economic development opportunity, including agricultural production, food or beverage processing, or an economic activity that uses agriculture products as inputs. The bill is unnecessary, because the Cabinet already provides information of agriculture-related economic development opportunities through an existing common interest agreement. This current sharing of information is a good example of interagency collaboration on potential economic development projects in Kentucky and represents better policy than statutorily requiring the same practice. Furthermore, House Bill 390 requires the Cabinet to provide notice to one constitutional officer to the exclusion of all others, including the Governor, who is the Chief Magistrate and is the only officer with the duty to ensure the laws are faithfully executed.

This notification requirement of House Bill 390 appears to stem from false information provided to legislators about events surrounding a meat processing plant that local officials in Christian County proposed in 2021. As State Representative Myron Dossett's own public statements show, that proposed project did not develop in Christian County because of local opposition, not because of any action of the Cabinet for Economic Development. American Food Groups decided not to locate in Christian County after officials and residents publicly voiced their opposition to the proposal. As media reports show, Rep. Dossett and the Christian County Judge/Executive delivered the message from the community to the company to not build in Christian County at a meeting with the company and a local agribusiness executive in September of 2021. Local media quoted Rep. Dossett as saying, "We don't think the company and

Pembroke would be a good fit.” According to those same media reports, Rep. Dossett said local officials involved in recruiting the company kept the project secret too long.

House Bill 390 attempts to do the same thing by unnecessarily requiring that at least one appointee to the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority have experience and expertise in agriculture. The Authority currently includes Don Goodin – a lifelong farmer in Marion County – as a member and the Vice Chair.

For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 390.

This, the 8th day of April, 2022.



Andy Beshear
Governor